Attorney Docket No.: 10541-1822

Response to Office Action of March 29, 2004

Page 2

i. Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the following paragraphs as follows.

[0022] Referring to Figures 3 and 4 5 the vehicle wheel assembly 18 can

move up and down between a high point, shown in Figure 3, and a low point, as

shown in Figure 4. As the second end 16 of the connector rod 10 moves

between the high point and the low point, the connector rod 10 must pivot radially

about the first end 12 that is fixed with relation to the vehicle. The range of

movement is typically on the order of approximately 60 degrees as shown at 21.

[0024] Referring to Figures 6 through 9, the second end 16 of the

connector rod 10 is mounted pivotally to the vehicle wheel assembly 18. The

vehicle wheel assembly 18 preferably includes a pivotal wheel hub 26 for

supporting a wheel (not shown) 28, a knuckle 30 mounted to the wheel hub 26,

and a pivot arm 32 extending outward from the knuckle 30. The pivot arm 32

preferably extends outward from the knuckle 30 so that the end of the pivot arm

32 is located away from the pivot point of the wheel assembly 18. Therefore,

when the end of the pivot arm 32 is moved, the wheel assembly 18 pivots. The

second end 16 of the connector rod 10 is pivotally mounted to the end of the

pivot arm 32 to transfer motion of the steering mechanism 14 through the

connector rod 10 to cause the wheel assembly 18 to pivot, thereby turning the

vehicle.

[0028] Referring to Figures 10 and 11, rather than having a flexible shaft

portion 20, the first end 12a of the connector rod 10a can alternatively be

Attorney Docket No.: 10541-1822

Response to Office Action of March 29, 2004

Page 3

mounted to allow total pivotal freedom in the vertical plane as well as allowing limited pivotal movement in the horizontal plane. In this second embodiment the first end 12a includes an aperture 22a extending through the connector rod 10a for receiving a corresponding support pin 24a that is mounted to the vehicle steering mechanism 14a. The pin 24a is oriented orthogonal to the connector rod 10a such that when the connector rod 10a is mounted to the support pin 24a,

the connector rod 10a can pivot vertically about the support pin 24a.